Members of Parliament and otherwise, seeking exemption on cycles and the parts and accessories of cycle and cycle rickshaws from the *4%* excise levy as this levy will adversely effect the industry.

(b) and (c) In order to achieve a simple, equitable and rational tax structure, a nominal duty of 4% was imposed on large number of items, including bicycles and its parts and accessories which were hitherto exempt from excise duty. However, having regard to these representations, the Government have exempted parts and accessories of cycles and cycle rickshaws from the 4% excise levy with effect from 27th April, 2002.

Customs Duty evasion by firms

5011. SHRIRAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the figures of evasion of Customs Duty by firms operating under the various export promotion schemes since 1995, year-wise and scheme-wise;

(b) whether any defaulting firms/offenders have been prosecuted/ punished for evasion of Customs Duty; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN). (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Constitution of Twelfth Finance Commission

5012. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute the Twelfth Finance Commission soon;

(b) if so, whether views of State Governments have been taken into consideration before constituting the Twelfth Finance Commission;

(c) what is the constitution of the Commission; and

(d) by when this Commission is likely to submit its recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Governments have been asked to send their views/comments on the terms of reference of the Twelfth Finance Commission. Their views/